



SF 2298 – RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps Funding (LSB5765SV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

Senate File 2298 establishes the RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps program for the economic well-being and health of economically disadvantaged refugees in local communities across Iowa. The bill requires the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services, to establish a Refugee Rebuild, Integrate, Serve, Empower (RefugeeRISE) AmeriCorps program to increase community integration and engagement for diverse refugee communities in rural and urban areas across the state. The bill also requires the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service to submit an annual report to the General Assembly and the Iowa Department of Human Services relating to the efficacy of the RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps program.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact to the General Fund cannot be determined at this time; however, \$350,000 is the estimated amount needed to provide member recruitment and training. Funding may be available from federal and private sources to administer the program. Any state funds appropriated from the General Fund to the Iowa Economic Development Authority may be used to supplement federal funds under federal regulations. The bill adds the RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps Program to programs eligible to receive funds from the Iowa Economic Development Authority's Community Programs account. Other programs supported through the Community Programs account include the Iowa Summer Youth Corps Program, the Iowa Green Corps Program, and the Iowa Reading Corps Program. The bill allows funds currently available in the Community Programs account to be used by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service to support the RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps program. **Senate File 2298** also allows the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service to establish an escrow account and use funds for tuition and program payments made beyond the term of any fiscal year. Funds available in the Community Programs account will not revert and interest earned will be credited to the account.

Sources

Iowa Economic Development Authority
Iowa Department of Human Services

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to **Joint Rule 17** and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
